

ENROLLED

H.C.R. No. 175

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert Ewing Thomason, eminent
2 statesman and jurist and El Paso's favorite son, will celebrate
3 the 94th anniversary of his birth on May 30, 1973; and

4 WHEREAS, This esteemed and beloved citizen of Texas was
5 born in Tennessee, but at the age of one overcame that hardship
6 by moving with his family to Gainesville, Texas. Early in life,
7 he decided to enter the legal profession and following his training
8 in jurisprudence was admitted to the Texas Bar; and

9 WHEREAS, It was in Gainesville that he commenced a brilliant
10 career in politics. He was elected district attorney in 1902,
11 at the age of 23, and served two terms before moving to El Paso
12 for reasons of health; and

13 WHEREAS, After becoming one of El Paso's most respected and
14 successful legal advocates, he was elected to the Texas House of
15 Representatives in 1917, and in his second term was awarded the
16 unprecedented honor of being elected unanimously to the speakership
17 of the Texas House; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1927, the same year that he was elected mayor
19 of El Paso, he married the former Miss Abbie Long. During his
20 tenure as mayor, he was instrumental in securing for the community
21 several of its most important industries and in the establishment
22 of the city's first municipal airport; and

23 WHEREAS, When a vacancy occurred in the state's sprawling
24 16th congressional district, he was overwhelmingly elected from

1 that district to the United States House of Representatives from
2 the sprawling 16th Congressional District and served with
3 distinction from 1931 to 1947. During his distinguished tenure,
4 he became the ranking Democratic member of the prestigious House
5 Military Affairs Committee and was influential in getting for
6 Texas a substantial share of the military bases which trained
7 American servicemen for World War II; and

8 WHEREAS, This prominent statesman returned to El Paso in
9 1947, to assume the duties of United States District Judge for
10 the Western District of Texas under the appointment of President
11 Harry Truman. While on the federal bench, he presided in several
12 major cases that have become notable in judicial history. Judge
13 Thomason retired in 1963 at the age of 84 but continued to
14 participate actively in the court for some years after retirement;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The people of El Paso hold a special place in their
17 hearts for Judge Thomason and his lovely family: his wife, Abbie;
18 son, Bill Thomason; and daughter, Mrs. Isabelle Thomason Decherd.
19 This devoted husband and father has inspired many friends and
20 associates through his exemplary qualities and public service to
21 the citizens of this state and the nation; and

22 WHEREAS, Members of the 63rd Texas Legislature desire on
23 this occasion to extend birthday greetings to a former Speaker
24 of this House, to this great statesman and jurist, the Honorable
25 Robert Ewing Thomason; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of

1 Texas, the Senate concurring, That the 63rd Legislature, by this
2 Resolution, wish Judge Robert Ewing Thomason a happy birthday
3 with the further wish that he and his gracious wife, Abbie,
4 celebrate many more of the same; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be
6 prepared for Judge Robert Ewing Thomason as an expression of good
7 wishes to him and highest regard from the 63rd Legislature of the
8 State of Texas.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that H.C.R. No. 175 was adopted by the
House on May 26, 1973.

Chief Clerk of the House